

***Platanthera sparsiflora* (S. Wats.) Schlechter**
canyon bog-orchid
Orchidaceae (Orchid Family)

Status: State Threatened
Rank: G4G5S1

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1969): Plant glabrous, 12 to 32 inches tall, the stems leafy mostly on the lower half. Leaves narrowly oblong-lanceolate to narrowly lanceolate, up to 10 inches long and mostly $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch broad. Raceme much elongate and usually very lax flowered, 6 to 16 inches long, the first several flowers rarely overlapping. Bracts usually shorter than the flowers but the lowermost sometimes considerably longer. Flowers greenish. Upper sepal broadly ovate to suborbicular, blunt, concave and converging with the upper petals to form a distinct hood, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ inch long, 3-nerved. Lateral sepals spreading, falcately oblong-lanceolate, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, 3-nerved. Lip pendent, thickish, linear to linear-lanceolate, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. Spur cylindric to slightly clavate and mostly abruptly narrowed at the tip, from slightly shorter to somewhat longer than the lip, mostly somewhat curved. Column rather large, well over half as long as the upper sepal, the pollen sacs $\frac{1}{16}$ inch long, well-separated by the connective.

Identification Tips: *Platanthera sparsiflora* differs from the more common *P. stricta* by its narrower leaves, relatively long, narrow spur, and a more linear lip.

Phenology: Flowers late May through August.

Range: Disjunct in Washington; extreme southwestern Oregon to Baja California, east to Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. In Washington, the taxon is known primarily from Skamania County in the Western Cascades physiographic province. A single plant from Whatcom County has also been identified as being this species. There are also historic references to the species from Chelan County in the Eastern Cascades physiographic province.

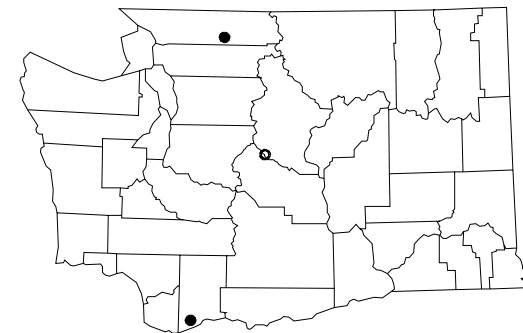
Habitat: Open, wet areas, seeps and bogs. Elevations in Washington range from 800 to 5200 feet. Associated species from the Skamania County site include *Platanthera stricta*, *P. dilatata*, *Polygonum bistortoides*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, and *Gentiana sceptrum*.

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Known distribution of
Platanthera sparsiflora
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Ecology: *Platanthera sparsiflora* is identified as a facultative wetland species (USFWS 1988).

State Status Comments: The small number of occurrences and the low population numbers contribute to the species' status in Washington.

Inventory Needs: The Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area should be surveyed near the historical occurrence and other appropriate habitats throughout Washington.

Threats and Management Concerns: Threats to the taxon include grazing, herbicides, road construction, and especially hydrologic change.

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1969. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 1: Vascular Cryptogams, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 914 pp.

Luer, C.A. 1975. *The Native Orchids of the United States and Canada*. New York Botanical Garden, New York.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1988. National list of vascular plant species that occur in wetlands. USFWS Biological Report 88 (24).